

I. Review

- a) Jesus told the woman at the well, "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews" (John 4:22).
- b) This could also be translated, "You worship *who* you do not know; we worship *who* we know."
- c) Worship Component #6: True worship flows out of our secret place relationship with Jesus.
- d) True worship is related to the depth of our intimate knowledge of God.
- e) Mary worshiped from the overflow of her intimate relationship with Jesus.
- f) True worship flows of knowing the Lord Jesus Christ in the secret place Monday through Saturday. Not just coming to church without seeking Him throughout the week and singing the songs on the screen.
- g) The worshipers in Revelation 14:1-5 know the Lord intimately. These are:
 - The bride who has made herself ready;
 - The overcomers;
 - The adopted sons who will share in Christ's inheritance.
- h) This worshipping remnant are those who have a secret place relationship with Jesus. They know the Lord intimately. They are the wise virgins who purchased oil during their life upon the earth.
- i) The Lord is calling us to know Him. In my dream, Jesus appeared to me and said, "My people do not know Me."
- j) In the parable of the dinner from Luke 14:16-24, the people who refused the Lord's invitation were good people. They weren't evil. They just allowed their home, their family, and their work to keep them from a dining relationship with the Lord. They gave the Lord excuses of why they could not dine with Him.
- k) If we don't dine with Jesus now, in an intimate relationship with Him in the secret place, then we will not dine with Him in the holy of holies for all eternity. Though saved and going to heaven, we will not feast upon Him for the eternal ages in close, intimate communion.
- l) We think Jesus will accept our excuses. But He will not.
- m) From last week, remember my mom's dream. She was about to marry someone she didn't even know. She was embarrassed about her wedding dress. And this filled her with great concern. The Lord is calling us to know Him intimately and to make our wedding dress ready for our marriage to Him.

II. Summary of Today's Message

- a) The Lord is calling us to know Him. This is what He is emphasizing to us. True worship flows out of our secret place relationship with the Lord.
- b) In my opinion, this is the most important component of all the worship components. If we don't know Him, then we are just singing songs on Sunday.
- c) With this in mind, I want to spend two weeks talking about knowing God practically. I don't want the next two weeks to be heavy on theology, but in the practical lessons that I have learned over the past 20 years of seeking to know God. So, I'll share 20 things I've learned about knowing God intimately over the past 20 years.

- d) Over the past 20 years, I've been to some of the best events, read many of the must-read books, and listened to some of the greatest preachers in the world. But undoubtedly, my great times of transformation have come by consistently seeking the Lord in the secret place.
- e) Before we begin, let me state that these are lessons that I learned. This is not something that you should copy, but glean from and apply to your own life, based upon your unique circumstances and personality.

III. 20 Things I've Learned About Knowing God Intimately

1. Christianity is a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It's not a religion.
 - God's eternal purpose, established in the council of the Godhead before time and creation, was to bring humanity into the fellowship of the Trinity.
 - Read John 17.
 - "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3).
 - "God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Cor. 1:9).
2. Don't try to copy someone else.
 - Noel Mann, who was like a spiritual father to me, used to spend the entire day seeking the Lord. When he would minister at our church, he would lay on his face in dad's office for four hours or more, praying and listening to the Lord's voice.
 - Though I have tremendous respect for Noel, I could never seek the Lord that way. Even the thought of doing that sounds like a heavy burden. Why? Because I am my own unique person. The Lord doesn't want me to copy what Noel did, but to establish my own relationship with the Lord based upon my own unique personality and circumstances.
3. Develop a life-time vision to know God intimately.
 - "That I may know Him....Let us therefore, as many as are perfect [mature], have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you" (Phil. 3:10,15).
 - Knowing God intimately is the most important thing about you and your life.
 - Knowing God intimately will take a lifetime. It won't happen in one day, one week, or one year.
 - True success in the kingdom is not what you do for God, but whether or not you truly know Him.
 - Make knowing God intimately your life vision.
4. Make knowing God intimately the highest priority of your life.
 - You make time for what is most important to you. Therefore, make knowing God intimately the highest priority of your life.
 - Our priorities should be: 1) Intimacy with God; 2) Spouse; 3) Children; 4) Job; 5) Ministry; 6) House.
5. Schedule your time with God every week until it becomes a habit.
 - Stephen Covey said, "The key is not to prioritize what's on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities."

- If you don't schedule time with God, you will likely not have time with God.
 - Because I am so busy—working 20 hours per week doing software development, pastoring a church, helping to lead Lifeschool, writing a book, and leading GoSponsorIt—scheduling my week is a must. I schedule when I will seek the Lord, when I will work out, when I will write, etc.
 - I try develop my schedule before a new week and revise as necessary.
 - A few minutes before going to bed, I try to think about what I have scheduled for the next day, including when I will seek the Lord and what time I need to wake up to do that.
 - At the end of the notes, I've attached my weekly planner. Feel free to use this if it would help you.
6. Be faithful in the little time you have and more will be given to you.
- Jesus said, "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10).
 - I used to get frustrated because I wanted to spend more time with the Lord but didn't have the time. I wanted to spend hours waiting on Him but only had at the most 30 minutes before work. But I realized that when I was faithful with the 30 minutes I had, He gave me more time.
 - If we will take the small amounts of time that we have and use it to seek the Lord, He will give us more time.
 - Seek the Lord on your commute to work. Pray in tongues and listen to the Lord's voice while taking a shower. Ask the Lord to speak to you when you cut the grass, paint, or do other projects around the house. Turn the radio off and communicate with the Lord while running errands. Take a walk and listen for what the Lord will speak.
7. Hunger and thirst for God grows as you experience Him on a regular basis.
- After you have fasted or have been sick, you lose your appetite. The only way to get your appetite back is to begin eating in small amounts. As you do this, before long, your hunger has increased.
 - The same is true spiritually. If you will consistently seek the Lord and begin to experience Him, your hunger and thirst will increase.
8. If you are super busy, ask the Lord to show you how to seek Him.
- I have had very busy seasons in my life. Times when it was almost impossible to spend time with the Lord. Examples: When I worked in the office 3 days a week, the first year after Anna was born, etc.
 - Everyone has busy seasons. In those busy seasons, don't lose sight of your life-time vision to know Him. Seasons will change and you will have more time. Keep your life-time vision in sight as you navigate busy seasons.
 - During unusually busy seasons, tell the Lord that you want to spend time with Him but you don't have the time right now. Ask Him for wisdom and creativity about what you need to do. He will show you. I have done this many times, and almost immediately, I have an idea that pops into my head that is the perfect thing to do.
9. If you miss your set time with the Lord, don't condemn yourself.
- In the past, when I went through busy seasons and didn't have time to seek the Lord regularly, whenever I did have time and began to pray, I would spend about 30 minutes under condemnation, repenting for not seeking Him like I should have.

- Don't do that! You are wasting the time that you do have.
10. If you are super busy, use Saturday and Sunday to seek the Lord.
- Jesus didn't seek the Father every single day, especially during His ministry. Yet He would often break away and spend hours and sometimes whole nights in prayer.
 - If you have a high pressure, time-consuming job, make Saturday and Sunday the days you "catch up" in your time with the Lord.
11. If you are married and have younger children who demand your attention, work with your spouse to help each other seek the Lord.
- Establish your life-time vision of knowing the Lord with your spouse. Then you can help each other to have time seeking the Lord. You can work this into your schedule.
 - For example, the husband can watch the kids on Saturday mornings while the wife seeks the Lord. And the wife can watch the kids on Sunday mornings while the husband seeks the Lord.
 - Work together to help each other establish a regular time of knowing the Lord in the secret place.
12. Don't be self-righteous about your relationship with the Lord.
- If you are married, don't judge, coerce, or try to control your spouse to spend time with the Lord. Let go and let God move in their life.
 - Sometimes I have found myself in prayer feeling superior to other "less spiritual" Christians because I was spending time with the Lord and they weren't. Don't do that. Don't be self-righteous or judgmental about intimacy with the Lord.
 - I assure you. This will hinder intimacy with the Lord. Jesus hates self-righteousness.
13. There's a difference between seeking God and abiding in Him.
- We are to abide in the Lord throughout the day but seeking Him is a concentrated focus upon the Lord for a set time.
 - There's a difference between the two. I have found that seeking the Lord helps me to abide in Him throughout the day.
14. Always monitor your oil supply.
- Just as you look at the battery on your cell phone to see when you need to recharge it, monitor your oil supply. Be aware of your spiritual strength and stamina.
 - When you are low on oil, spend time seeking the Lord.
 - I have found that if I have a really good time of seeking the Lord, this can help me to abide in Him and walk in the Spirit for 2-3 days.
15. Use your best time to seek the Lord.
- If you are a morning person, seek the Lord in the morning. If you are a night person, seek the Lord at night.
 - Use your best strength and energy to seek the Lord.

16. Find a place where you will seek Him.

- I used to lay down in front of the fireplace to seek the Lord. That worked well until I had a puppy and he would try and play with me.
- Now I seek the Lord at the kitchen table.

17. Be consistent no matter how you feel.

- If you wait to seek the Lord based upon how you feel, you will not seek Him often. Typically, I will feel exhausted, dry, down, and dead when I begin seeking Him. But I've come to realize that if I will press through, despite how I feel at first, then when I'm done, the Holy Spirit's presence is filling me and He is living through me. When my time with the Lord has come to an end, almost every time I have peace and joy that I didn't have before.
- Discipline is key to intimacy with God. Do it no matter how you feel. Do it no matter how tired you are. Do it no matter what. Discipline leads to consistency and consistency is where true spiritual fruit begins to be produced.
- Knowing the Lord comes through discipline and consistency.

18. Intimacy with God is internal.

- Your spirit is where fellowship begins. All intimacy with God originates in your spirit.
- "The one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him" (1 Cor. 6:17).
- Most are unfamiliar with their spirit. Their body, coupled together with their soul, has suppressed their spirit. Ask the Lord to strengthen your spirit and to help you distinguish your spirit from your body and soul.
- Your heart is the garden of the Lord. Your heart is where the Holy Spirit wants to dwell. When all the distractions, anxieties, and desires for other things are removed from your heart, then you can begin to experience fellowship with the Holy Spirit in your heart.
- The goal is to have the Spirit who dwells in your spirit to fill your heart and to then live His life through you, from your heart.

19. Christ in you is the key to knowing Him intimately.

- To have intimacy with God, it is imperative to have a life-changing revelation of Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27). This is the key to knowing God intimately.
- If you don't have this, ask the Lord for it. Pray Ephesians 1:17-18 until your heart is enlightened to know the power in you and toward you as you believe.
- Christ in you connects you to God who sits on the throne in heaven.

20. The devil wants to stop you from having intimacy with God at all costs.

- The devil wants to lead you away from simple and pure devotion to Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 11:3).
- If you make knowing God intimately your life vision, it will be greatly contested by the enemy. Press through it anyway and don't quit.

Time / period	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 – 7 AM							
7 – 8 AM							
8 – 9 AM							
9 – 10 AM							
10 – 11 AM							
11 – 12 PM							
12 – 1 PM							
1 – 2 PM							
2 – 3 PM							
3 – 4 PM							
4 – 5 PM							
5 – 6 PM							
6 – 7 PM							

Goals